

Promoting Sustainability in 21st Century Community Learning Centers—

Discussion Issues and Resources for Panelists

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Virginia Department of Education Grantee Conference
Richmond, VA
May 1, 2007

Issues for Consideration

What works in promoting sustainability?

- I. Collaboration and Partnerships**
- II. Diversified Funding**
- III. Intermediaries**
- IV. Program Quality**
- V. Statutory Incentives and Disincentives**

I. Collaboration and Partnerships

- **Champions:** Does the program have champions to speak for its value and importance to the community?
- **Leadership:** Is the governance group “champion-ing” the afterschool program in your community?
- **Communications:** Keep key stakeholders and the public involved

I. Collaboration and Partnerships

➤ What motivates “champions? Why do they help?

- *Positive Returns to City Government*

- increase in safety; educational enrichment

- *Value-added County Investments*

- free child care for low-income families, increased work productivity, employment opportunities

- *Meeting Community and Corporate Priorities*

- youth development= better future labor force; community partnerships results in positive social and economic change

II. Diversified Funding

➤ Federal

➤ State

➤ Local

- Foundations
- Business
- School district
- City or county

II. Diversified Funding

Which federal funds are your programs currently using?

- Title I
 - Title I Supplemental Education Services
 - Community Development Block Grants
 - Safe and Drug Free Schools
 - Child Care Development Block Grants
 - Job Training Partnership Act
 - Learn and Serve America: School and Community Based Programs
 - AmeriCorps
 - Vista
- Are there any other federal funds within your district that may be accessible to afterschool programs?

II. Diversified Funding

Local financing strategies --

- Special taxing districts
- Children's trust funds
- Special tax levies
- Fees and narrowly-based taxes
- Guaranteed expenditure minimums
- Income tax check-offs
- "20% strategy"

III. Intermediaries

- **Intermediaries can take on the burden of sustainability and let program managers concentrate on quality of services**
- **Examples of successful intermediaries include**
 - **L.A.'s BEST** – manages 175 elementary schools in Los Angeles
 - **The After-School Corporation** – manages approximately 100 programs in New York
 - **After School Matters** – serves approximately 35,000 high school children in Chicago

IV. Program Quality

- **Communities are far more likely to support the continuation of programs with demonstrated success**
 - Routinely share descriptive and evaluation data – including testimony of participating students
 - Take steps to ensure program quality through annual needs assessments, parent and participant surveys, and assessments of program quality
 - Document benefits related to academic performance, in-school behaviors (e.g., attendance), and out-of-school behaviors (e.g., reduced crime statistics)

V. Statutory Incentives and Disincentives

➤ What does the statute require?

- The State educational agency must require applicants to “submit a plan describing how the community learning center...will continue after funding under this part ends” (§4203(a)(8)(B))
- Each application must contain “a preliminary plan for how the community learning center will continue after funding under this part ends” (§4204(a)(2)(J))
- The statute also requires the state to establish competitive criteria that “take into consideration the likelihood that a proposed community learning center will help participating students meet local content and student academic achievement standards” (§4203(a)(4)).

V. Statutory Incentives and Disincentives

➤ **Can sustainability of programs be influenced through reauthorization?**

- Continued funding of high-quality demonstration programs (beyond current 5-year limitation)
- Competitive priority for demonstrated effectiveness
- Dedicated federal funding stream, similar to ASES (Proposition 49) in California?

Resources

- The Finance Project (www.financeproject.org)
 - The [Clearinghouse on Expanding and Sustaining Youth Programs and Policies](#), an online, searchable clearinghouse, is a joint project with the Forum for Youth Investment. It contains information and resources to help program developers and managers, intermediaries, funders and policymakers support and sustain youth programs and initiatives.
 - The Finance Project offers a variety of tools, resources, and services to support effective sustainability planning, including the [Sustainability Planning Workbook](#).
 - [A Guide to Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Youth Programs](#)
 - [Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs](#)
 - [Thinking Broadly: Financing Strategies for Youth Programs](#)